

Amendment to the claims

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in this application:

Listing of claims

1. (Currently amended) A process for producing at least one protic ammonium tetrakis(^Faryl)borate, which process comprises

- i) mixing together (a) at least one alkali metal tetrakis(^Faryl)borate, at least one magnesium di[tetrakis(^Faryl)borate], at least one halomagnesium tetrakis(^Faryl)borate, or a mixture of two or more of the foregoing, (b) at least one amine, wherein the amine has the formula R₃N, in which each R is independently a hydrocarbyl group containing up to about thirty carbon atoms, wherein the amine is present in an amount of up to about 7% molar excess relative to the total moles of tetrakis(^Faryl)borate anion of (a), and (c) one or more liquid dihydrocarbyl ethers, one or more liquid hydrocarbons, one or more liquid halogenated hydrocarbons, or a mixture of two or more of the foregoing, to form a solution or slurry in a liquid organic medium; and
- ii) mixing together at least one protic acid with at least a portion of the solution or slurry formed in i), such that a protic ammonium tetrakis(^Faryl)borate is formed, wherein the acid is present in an amount of up to about 12% molar excess relative to the total moles of tetrakis(^Faryl)borate anion of (a), and

wherein each of the ^Faryl groups is a fluorine-containing aryl group that has bonded directly to an aromatic ring at least two fluorine atoms, or at least two perfluorohydrocarbyl groups, or at least one fluorine atom and at least one perfluorohydrocarbyl group.

2. (Original) A process according to Claim 1 wherein (a) is an alkali metal tetrakis(^Faryl)borate, and wherein said alkali metal tetrakis(^Faryl)borate is solvent-wet.

3. (Original) A process according to Claim 1 wherein said alkali metal tetrakis(^Faryl)borate is a sodium or potassium tetrakis(^Faryl)borate.

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Original) A process according to Claim 1 wherein each position on the aromatic ring(s) of the ^Faryl group that is not a fluorine atom or a perfluorohydrocarbyl group is substituted by a hydrogen atom, a hydrocarbyl group, an alkoxy group, or a silyl group.

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Original) A process according to Claim 1 wherein all of the positions on said aromatic ring(s) of said aryl group are substituted by fluorine atoms.

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Original) A process according to Claim 1 wherein the alkali metal tetrakis(^Faryl)borate is sodium tetrakis(pentafluorophenyl)borate or potassium tetrakis(pentafluorophenyl)borate.

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Original) A process according to Claim 1 wherein at least one R group of said amine is a phenyl group.

12. (Original) A process according to Claim 1 wherein at least one R group of said amine is a methyl group.

13. (Original) A process according to Claim 1 wherein the amine is phenyl(dimethyl)amine.

14. (Original) A process according to Claim 1 wherein the liquid organic medium comprises one or more liquid dihydrocarbyl ethers.

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Original) A process according to Claim 1 wherein the alkali metal tetrakis(^Faryl)borate is sodium tetrakis(pentafluorophenyl)borate or potassium tetrakis(pentafluorophenyl)borate, wherein the amine is phenyl(dimethyl)amine wherein the liquid organic medium comprises one or more liquid dihydrocarbyl ethers, and wherein said liquid dihydrocarbyl ether is diethyl ether.

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Original) A process according to Claim 1 wherein (a) is a magnesium di[tetrakis(^Faryl)borate].

19-20. (Cancelled)

21. (Original) A process according to Claim 1 wherein (a) is a halomagnesium tetrakis(^Faryl)borate.

22-23. (Cancelled)

24. (Original) A process according to Claim 1 wherein said protic acid is hydrochloric acid, hydrobromic acid, or hydroiodic acid.

25-28. (Cancelled)

29. (Original) A process according to Claim 1 wherein the amine is phenyl(dimethyl)amine, and wherein the protic acid is hydrochloric acid, hydrobromic acid, or hydroiodic acid.

30. (Original) A process according to Claim 1 wherein the alkali metal tetrakis(^Faryl)borate is sodium tetrakis(pentafluorophenyl)borate or potassium tetrakis(pentafluorophenyl)borate, wherein the amine is phenyl(dimethyl)amine, wherein the liquid organic medium comprises one or more liquid dihydrocarbyl ethers, and wherein the protic acid is hydrochloric acid, hydrobromic acid, or hydroiodic acid.

31-33. (Cancelled)

34. (Original) A process according to Claim 1 wherein said magnesium di[tetrakis(^Faryl)borate] is magnesium di[tetrakis(pentafluorophenyl)borate], wherein the amine is phenyl(dimethyl)amine, wherein the liquid organic medium comprises one or more liquid dihydrocarbyl ethers, wherein said liquid dihydrocarbyl ether is diethyl ether, and wherein the protic acid is hydrochloric acid, hydrobromic acid, or hydroiodic acid.

35-36. (Cancelled)

37. (Original) A process according to Claim 1 wherein said halomagnesium tetrakis(^Faryl)borate is bromomagnesium tetrakis(pentafluorophenyl)borate, wherein the amine is phenyl(dimethyl)amine, wherein the liquid organic medium comprises one or more liquid dihydrocarbyl ethers, wherein said liquid dihydrocarbyl ether is diethyl ether, and wherein the protic acid is hydrochloric acid, hydrobromic acid, or hydroiodic acid.

38-50. (Cancelled)

51. (Original) A process according to Claim 1 further comprising forming a liquid clathrate with the protic ammonium tetrakis(^Faryl)borate.

52-53. (Cancelled)

54. (Currently amended) A process for producing at least one protic ammonium tetrakis(^Faryl)borate, which process comprises

- i) mixing together (a) a mixture comprising a liquid organic medium and at least one halomagnesium tetrakis(^Faryl)borate, wherein the liquid organic medium is comprised of one or more liquid dihydrocarbyl ethers, one or more liquid hydrocarbons, one or more liquid halogenated hydrocarbons, or a mixture of two or more of the foregoing, and (b) at least one amine, wherein the amine has the formula R₃N, in which each R is independently a hydrocarbyl group containing up to about thirty carbon atoms, wherein the amine is present in an amount of up to about 7% molar excess relative to the total moles of tetrakis(^Faryl)borate anion of (a), to form a solution or slurry; and
- ii) mixing together at least one protic acid with at least a portion of the solution or slurry formed in i), such that a protic ammonium tetrakis(^Faryl)borate is formed, wherein the acid is present in an amount of up to about 12% molar excess relative to the total moles of tetrakis(^Faryl)borate anion of (a), and

wherein each of the ^Faryl groups is a fluorine-containing aryl group that has bonded directly to an aromatic ring at least two fluorine atoms, or at least two perfluorohydrocarbyl groups, or at least one fluorine atom and at least one perfluorohydrocarbyl group.

55. (Original) A process according to Claim 54 wherein said halomagnesium tetrakis(^Faryl)borate is bromomagnesium tetrakis(pentafluorophenyl)borate.

56. (Original) A process according to Claim 54 wherein said halomagnesium tetrakis(^Faryl)borate is bromomagnesium tetrakis(pentafluorophenyl)borate, wherein the amine is phenyl(dimethyl)amine, and wherein the liquid organic medium comprises one or more liquid dihydrocarbyl ethers.

57. (Cancelled)

58. (Original) A process according to Claim 54 wherein said protic acid is hydrochloric acid, hydrobromic acid, or hydriodic acid.

59. (Original) A process according to Claim 54 wherein said halomagnesium tetrakis(^Faryl)borate is bromomagnesium tetrakis(pentafluorophenyl)borate, wherein the amine is phenyl(dimethyl)amine, wherein the liquid organic medium comprises one or more liquid dihydrocarbyl ethers, wherein said liquid dihydrocarbyl ether is diethyl ether, and wherein the protic acid is hydrochloric acid, hydrobromic acid, or hydriodic acid.

60-65. (Cancelled)